

KCDHH

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



STAFF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005

EQUIPLINK



TELELINK



Submitted

DEAFLINK



by

Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Ed.D.

ACCESS CENTER



**KCDHH Highlights for the Fourth Quarter
July 1 through September 30, 2005
FY 2005-2006**

Administration

The Education Cabinet requested information about KCDHH plans to propose legislation in 2006. The legislation that KCDHH plans to submit as an agency is a name change to the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf Distribution Program to Kentucky Telecommunications Assistance Program, simplification of the application wording and a funding increase for the program. KCDHH explained that there was other legislation that may be introduced by individuals of which KCDHH would be in support, but they would not be agency bills.

The federal government required all agencies receiving federal funds through Homeland Security to utilize the NIMCAST (National Incident Management System Capability Assessment Support Tool) online assessment tool to determine the entity's own emergency preparedness. Since the state government receives funds through this program, by Governor Fletcher's Executive Order, all agencies in state government were required to participate in the assessment. KCDHH completed the lengthy survey.

Personnel

During this quarter, Mr. Tony Lowe, the Information Systems Supervisor, resigned to take a position in Texas to be near his daughter. Mr. Lowe is greatly missed. KCDHH acted quickly to request the position be filled. It was approved, and from that register KCDHH received 139 applicants for the position. After days of reviewing applications and two days of interviews, KCDHH offered the position to Mr. John Barnes. He is currently a Network Analyst III with Department for Natural Resources located in the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. He has a degree in computers with a minor in management. He will complete his Career Manager Program with the Office of Government Training soon. He will start with KCDHH on November 1, 2005 but is already learning some signs. We are looking forward to working with him. He will make a nice addition to the KCDHH Staff.

Second Interim Reviews were completed on all eligible staff during the month of August as is required by state law.



Elizabeth “Cookie” Williams, a beloved friend, supporter and professional mentor to the Knowledge Center on Deafness (KCD), KCDHH and DeaFestival, died suddenly in her home on September 19, 2005.

An artist herself, Cookie supported the vision of DeaFestival for deaf and hard of hearing artists. DeaFestival – Kentucky was only one of many organizations, locally and nationally, which Cookie supported. Kentucky DeaFestival was one of her favorite charities. Cookie also served on the Knowledge Center on Deafness (KCD) Board and always challenged us to expand our abilities to reach artists past Kentucky’s borders. She will be sorely missed by everyone at KCDHH, her family, and the entire town of Wilmington, Ohio. The hole in our hearts can only be filled by the loving memories she left behind.

Pictured are Executive Director Bobbie Beth Scoggins and Cookie Williams during her visit for a KCD Board meeting in Frankfort last July 2005 prior to the passing of Ms. Williams. Dr. Scoggins and Virginia Moore attended the funeral in Wilmington, Ohio.

KCDHH GOALS

KCDHH Goal I: Improve, strengthen and develop services, including human and communication services.

Deaf Access Stations at Kentucky School for the Deaf:

For the past three months KCDHH has been working very closely with the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to include videoconferencing into their curriculum toward education. Through this collaborative effort an assessment of the KSD technology infrastructure was completed. It was determined to be woefully inadequate for videoconferencing and, in fact, KSD shares a T-1 with Boyle County Schools allowing the campus to have less than a T-1 for all of its data needs.

KCDHH approached the KDE with the following plan: Purchase new switches and hubs to upgrade the infrastructure of KSD, assess the fiber optics on the KSD campus, determine the fiber optic needs out of KSD to Frankfort, and determine the financial needs to obtain larger bandwidth of OC3 or above. In order for this plan to work KCDHH and KDE also included the Cabinet's Chief Information Officer (CIO) who worked with the Office of Educational Technology (OET) determining bandwidth and financial need. Funds have been secured for the new switches, hubs, server and a few computers for the campus. It has been determined that KSD has enough fiber within the campus and a meeting with the CIO and the Kentucky Information Highway (KIH) was held to discuss the possibility of increasing the pipeline back to Frankfort. OET is working with the KIH team to develop a KI2 network. KSD has requested to be a part of that network which will give enhanced video capability and a larger bandwidth.

To show the possibilities of videoconferencing for educational purposes KCDHH and KDE purchased three independent high-speed lines from Adelphia. One is wired to Brady Hall, the other to Kerr Hall, and the last one with Lee Hall. Lee Hall will serve as a satellite office for KCDHH. This will be considered a Deaf Access Station. Therefore the public will be able to utilize this site for videoconferencing and video relay interpreting (VRI).

To best utilize Brady Hall and Kerr Hall, KDE and KCDHH will select a committee to outline a policy on using videoconferencing for educational purposes.

Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green:

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) and Western Kentucky University (WKU) hosted an open house on September 22, 2005 for a Deaf Access Station (DAS) established at the Bowling Green Community College. The Community College has opened its doors to the community welcoming them in to use the station from 8:00am - 9:00pm M-F and 8:00am - 2:00pm on Saturdays.

Over 60 individuals from the deaf and hard of hearing community attended the open house with enthusiasm. One attendee said, "I live in a rural area of Bowling Green and I cannot get DSL or cable and I want to use videoconferencing to make my phone calls. I am tired of the TTY. Now I can come here and make my calls until we get high speed access at home."

The Provost of WKU, Dr. Barbara Burch, and Dr. Joe Etienne (former KCDHH commissioner), Dean of the Communications Department, also attended the open house. They were very impressed and discussed purchasing a plasma television for the wall of the DAS room in order to make communication easier on the eyes. They are also interested in working with the Click to Meet software (multi-video conferencing) in order to provide sign language classes to their satellite University classes throughout Kentucky. Dr. Etienne then discussed the possibility of setting up a DAS site in Owensboro and Glasgow.

Access Center Assignments

Requests	Filled Assignments That occurred 7/1/05-9/30/05	Cancelled Assignments that would have occurred 7/1/05-9/30/05	Interpreting Hours Provided 7/1/05-9/30/05	Average number of contacts required to fill assignments
AC: Request for Interpreting	105	11	799	15.24
AC: Request for Captioning	13	2	57	10.53
AC: Request for Videoconferencing	None recorded	None recorded	None recorded	None recorded

National Certification Opportunities

As a Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Super site, the KCDHH hosted 12 performance evaluations over a five-day period this quarter. The dates were July 7, July 22, July 23, July 29 and August 19, 2005.

TDD Distribution Program

Request	Applicants Receiving Equipment	Pieces of equipment Distributed
TDD: Applying for STE	220	302

Effective July 1, 2005, the TDD program expanded equipment choices for consumers from seven available items to 19 available items.

TDD Distribution Program staff has been working with Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives to archive TDD Distribution Program applications and financial records storing them at the State Library office in Frankfort. In addition, TDD staff will begin scanning files and burning them on CD's starting with fiscal year 04-05 forward. These steps will free up shelf space in KCDHH storage room. The archived information will be accessible to TDD staff within 48 hours via messenger mail.

TDD staff has also begun preparing for a regulation change. The change will be necessary when the legislation passes changing the name of the program and other improvements to the application will be made at that time. The TDD Distribution Program Advisory Board will review a draft of the regulations in its next meeting then the Commissioners will review the draft for final approval.

KCDHH Goal II: Serve as a clearinghouse of current information for state and national resources to provide appropriate information and referral services.

Office of Information Services

Information Technology

“Active Directory” has been mentioned in several quarterly reports but up till now there has been no attempt to explain it. Since a great deal of work has been done with regard to Active Directory migration this quarter, an attempt will be made to clarify. Active Directory is Microsoft’s hierarchical Directory Service that is part of Windows 2000 architecture designed to centralize and standardize the automation of user data, security, and distributed resources network management. It allows administrators to assign enterprise wide policies, deploy programs to many computers, and apply critical updates to an entire organization. An Active Directory stores information and settings relating to an organization in a central, organized, accessible database. Every agency has been required to “migrate” to Active Directory by October 2005. For KCDHH that first meant upgrading the servers to Windows 2003, migrating the KCDHH Exchange (email) server to the Commonwealth Office of Technology’s Exchange server and then migrating to the Education Cabinet’s domain. It is much like state government is the forest and Education Cabinet is the main branch and KCDHH is a sub-branch of that tree. Numerous meetings took place between COT, Education Cabinet and agencies within the Education Cabinet to make this happen. During this quarter, KCDHH staff met twice with all of the Education Cabinet agencies and had a private meeting with the Education Cabinet staff once. The Education Cabinet staff, particularly Ms. Ann Riggs and Mr. DeShawn Dawson were very helpful in getting KCDHH migrated since the Information Systems Supervisor position had become vacant. The actual migration began on August 15, 2005. KCDHH experienced several kinks but they have since been resolved with the assistance of the Education Cabinet staff mentioned above and Ms. Tammy Hatter, also with the Education Cabinet.

Web Hits Counter

Month	KCDHH Home Page	Access Center Home Page	IRA Home Page	TDD Distribution Home Page	DeaFestival Home Page	Publications Home Page
July	918	100	238	180	234	76
August	1,206	73	269	204	242	93
Sept.	1,059	50	242	174	356	80
Total	3,183	223	749	558	832	249

Information and Referral Requests

The IRA recorded 1,066 requests from July 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005.

Nature	Closed Requests	Incomplete Requests	Pending Requests	Incoming Contacts	Outgoing Contacts	Mass Distribution
OAS: Administration	1	0	0	1	2	
OEA: Administration	4	0	3	11	12	
OEA: AC: DAS	1	0	5	4	1	
OEA: AC: Evaluations	12	3	5	26	2	
OEA: AC: Outreach	10	0	0	8	8	420
OEA: AC: Request for Captioner	13	2		69	89	
OEA: AC: Request for Interpreter	105	11	4	534	1295	
OEA: TTY: Applying for STE	220	8	176	429	632	
OEA: TTY: Outreach	1	0	0	1	1	4130
OEA: TTY: Repair	11	0	0	18	16	
OEA: TTY: Request for Application	296	0	6	319	313	
OEA: TTY: Status Check	5	0	0	6	9	
OIS: DeaFestival	3	0	0	3	3	2730
OIS: Library	4	0	0	8	6	2230
OIS: Outreach	0	0	1	1	1	2630
OIS: IRA: ASL & Linguistics	4	0	0	3	5	
OIS: IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	6	0	0	5	8	
OIS: IRA: Demographics & Statistics	1	0	0	1	1	
OIS: IRA: Education	4	0	0	6	10	
OIS: IRA: Employment	4	0	0	6	6	
OIS: IRA: Families & Children	2	0	0	2	2	
OIS: IRA: Human Services	41	0	0	45	49	
OIS: IRA: Interpreting	15	0	1	15	18	
OIS: IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf & HOH	22	1	1	34	75	
OIS: IRA: Technology	8	1	1	10	14	
OIS: PUB: Agency Brochure	1	0	0	1	1	3950
OIS: PUB: Communicator	1	0	0	1	0	1085
OIS: PUB: Directory of Services	22	0	0	7	21	1125
OIS: PUB: Interpreter Directory	20	0	0	8	21	21
TOTAL	837	26	203	1582	2621	18321

General KCDHH Outreach

On July 31, 2005, at the Kentucky School for the Deaf Alumni Association Picnic in Danville, the TTY Specialist answered questions that participants had about applications for specialized telecommunications equipment.

On August 20, 2005, the Information Coordinator had a booth and disseminated KCDHH information and Directory of Services to attendees of the Family Fun Fair in Danville. She also helped with set up and all aspects of this event. Altogether there were about 200 people in attendance.

On August 25, 2005, the TTY Specialist assisted Self Help for Hard of Hearing people with manning their booth at the state fair in Louisville and answering questions about assistive devices for the general public.

On September 15, 2005, KCDHH had a tent at the Kentucky Folklife Festival in Frankfort. Various types of assistive technology were displayed and there was a printed walk-through pictorial tour of deaf and hard of hearing history. The first two days, there were demonstrations and various talks about life as a deaf or hard of hearing person. There were question and answer sessions with various groups of school children of all ages. The last day was mostly adults and individual demos with Q and A sessions were provided.

KCDHH Goal III: Initiate and advise the development of public policy and systems change efforts in cooperation with the Governor, General Assembly, public and private entities and local, state and federal governments.

Staff attended:

On July 5, 2005, the Program Coordinator provided CapTel training in Louisville to a 104 year old consumer and on September 28 to a consumer in Frankfort.

On July 5, 2005, the Executive Director met with Mr. Ed Bosson, the State Relay Administrator from Texas, to discuss the adverse impact of the Video Remote Interpreting/Video Relay Services Industry has on deaf and hard of hearing consumers. The meeting occurred in his office in Austin, Texas.

On July 7, 2005, the Program Coordinator attended the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC) Coordinators meeting to discuss methods used to encourage staff donations, especially payroll deduction. The Governor raised the state's goal by 35% from last year's goal. KCDHH is expected to collect \$1,620 total for the KECC Campaign.

July 10-15, 2005, the Executive Director, the Executive Staff Interpreter, the Executive Secretary and the Interpreter Administrator attended the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national biennial conference in San Antonio. Some of the workshops attended by staff were *Deaf Leadership*, *Deaf Caucus*, *Constructed Dialogue in ASL*, *10 ways to earn continuing education units without going to a Workshop*, *English and ASL Idioms*, *Working with Transgender Individuals: Everything You've Always Wanted to Know but were afraid to Ask*, and *Video Relay Interpreting: Assess and Deliver*.

On July 20, 2005, the Executive Director and the TTY Specialist attended the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign Kick-off in Frankfort. At this event, they announced the goals and plan and disseminated bags for the coordinators. A video was shown regarding this year's campaign. It was closed-captioned.

On July 22, 2005, Ms. Cristal Collins, the new Parent Representative to the KCDHH board was given a tour of the KCDHH office and an orientation on such things as the Commission's By-laws, Strategic Plan, Operating Policies for Commissioners, programs, services, Legislative Mandates, Commissioners' responsibilities in preparation of board meetings, Administrative Regulations, etc. A question and answer session was provided.

On July 26, 2005, the Program Coordinator met with Mr. Jim Cundy, the Archive Administrator at the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA) and discussed the possibility of KCDHH paying KDLA to scan our documents from the TDD Distribution Program for archive purposes. After review of the methods and pricing estimates it was determined to be more fiscally responsible to scan recent documents in house as an ongoing process and archive paper hardcopies at KDLA for a small storage fee. Mr. Cundy will review our Retention Schedule and meet with the Information Coordinator and TDD Program Coordinator to determine what is still realistic and what needs to be deleted or updated from our schedule. A follow up meeting took place on August 16, 2005. The Board of Archives approved the schedule in late September and Mr. Cundy will get KCDHH signatures on the schedule by September 30, 2005. KCDHH will adopt the new outline and bring all archives for the agency up to date by December 31, 2005.

On July 27, 2005, the Program Coordinator, the Information Coordinator and the Interpreter Administrator met with staff from the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky Arts Council to outline the plan for the KCDHH tent at the Folklife Festival to be held on Sept 14 - 17, 2005. A subsequent meeting took place on August 10, 2005 to finalize storyboards developed for use in the KCDHH tent. Plans for presentations of deaf culture events and demonstrations of equipment used to assist with communication for the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired people were outlined.

On July 31, 2005, the Executive Director was asked to represent the Council on Education of the Deaf to the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing meeting in Omaha. This is a policy-formulating group. At this meeting, the group worked on a draft of a position statement

entitled, "Principles and Guidelines on Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs." Following the meeting, the Executive Director toured Boys Town and was quite impressed by the services they provide related to deafness and hearing loss.

On August 16, 2005, the Executive Director attended the Biennial Budget meeting with the Education Cabinet. This meeting was held to share information with the Cabinet on the additional budget requests that KCDHH anticipated including in their biennial budget. There were two requests planned, to increase the TDD Distribution Program's portion of the funding from one cent per access line to two cents per access line and to request reinstatement of the Interpreter Referral Specialist position that KCDHH lost due to attrition.

On August 18, 2005, the Executive Director attended the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Task Force meeting to which she was recommended as a member. During the first meeting, introductions were made and Dr. Jennings gave a PowerPoint presentation from the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. He has been chosen to conduct a feasibility study for the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. All members brainstormed ideas on goals for the grant and current barriers to individuals with disabilities getting gainful employment.

On August 19, 2005, the Program Coordinator attended the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network Advisory Council meeting and subcommittee meeting of the By-Laws Committee in Frankfort. Members discussed and approved the By-Laws draft and submitted a proxy form to allow voting rights to be transferred to a representative and ensure a quorum. Ms. Sharon Fields was elected to serve as acting Chair of the Council until adoption of By-laws.

On August 29, 2005, a staff meeting was held to discuss the current KECC campaign and educate staff on their options for donating. Forms were disseminated and explained, each agency within the campaign was discussed and staff watched a videotape about the worthiness of donating to KECC.

On August 29, 2005, the Executive Director did a site visit to a Lexington voting booth at the request of the Executive Director of the Kentucky Disabilities Coalition. KCDHH worked collaboratively with Kentucky Disabilities Council and Kentucky Board of Elections to ensure that voting booths are accessible to deaf and hard of hearing individuals including tips for polling personnel.

On September 1, 2005, the Executive Director, the Interpreter Administrator and Ms. Barb Kibler, Mr. Wilton McMillan, Mr. Bill Stearns and Mr. Larry Conner, all from the Kentucky Department of Education, and Mr. Bill Melton and Ms. Debbie Trueblood from Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) met in Frankfort. At this meeting, it was announced that \$70,000 was available to purchase hardware and software for KSD. The group discussed what needed to be done to get moving on this purchase.

On September 2, 2005, the Executive Director requested a meeting with pertinent cabinet staff to assist in two areas. One area was in high-speed access to Kentucky School for the Deaf for the use of quality videoconferencing and the second area was with identifying the true cost of running the Kentucky Board of Interpreters. The KCDHH requested a cost analysis from the Education Cabinet staff to determine an equitable amount to be assumed by the affected state agencies using sign language interpreters to continue supporting the expenses of Kentucky Board of Interpreters on top of licensure fees collected from interpreters. The cabinet staff understood the needs and was anxious to assist.

On September 6, 2005, the Executive Director met with Ms. Marcie Jeffers and Ms. Kim Weldon, both from Mental Health, and Mr. Wilton McMillan, Chair of the Mental Health Advisory Council, to discuss details of the upcoming Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for September 14, 2005. The Information Coordinator attended this meeting as a representative for the Executive Director since she was unable to attend. A quorum was not met so no votes were taken at this meeting. The meeting focused on the possibility of each member using a proxy. Having a working retreat with members and the individual proxies was discussed.

On September 19, 2005, the Executive Secretary attended a budget meeting in Frankfort. An overview of the coming biennium was given and the due date for the cabinet to receive the budget was announced as October 24, 2005.

On September 20, 2005, the Executive Staff Advisor attended the Education Cabinet Public Information Officers' meeting in Frankfort. A representative from the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators shared a little about this association. A representative from the Kentucky Department of Education announced that the CATS Achievement Data for 2005 would be released at midnight. There was a Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign update and agencies were given an opportunity to share major upcoming events or media issues and they were asked to update the *Agency at Glance* document on file with the Cabinet.

On September 21, 2005, the Executive Director and Interpreter Administrator attended a meeting at KCDHH with Mr. Brad Watkins and Mr. Aaron Hepp from Commonwealth Office of Technology and Ms. Ann Riggs from the Education Cabinet. This meeting was held to discuss methods to bring more bandwidth to Kentucky School for the Deaf to equip them for higher quality videoconferencing. Mr. Watkins and Mr. Hepp will come back to the table with a couple of different options and the pricing for each.

On September 22, 2005, the Executive Director attended an Education Cabinet meeting in Frankfort. The Kentucky Almanac Project was presented that includes a host of information about Kentucky. A Business Forum Report/Governor's Educational Work Group Report was provided, agency heads gave reports and a KECC update was given.

On September 22, 2005, the Interpreter Administrator met with the Warren County Judge and Court Clerk at the request of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) which had contacted KCDHH requesting information about videoconferencing because the Warren County Justice Center in Bowling Green had hired a deaf individual who is awaiting her bar results to clerk for two county judges. With her job she is expected to make phone calls, be contacted by others and do research by phone. After assessing the job required and meeting with the individual, it was then recommended to AOC to purchase a CapTel telephone and to contact Hamilton Relay and to obtain a D-Link. The Clerk speaks very well for herself and would greatly benefit from a CapTel. Through our recommendation the Judge ordered two analog lines to be used with the CapTel and Hamilton was contacted to provide a D-Link. As it turned out the clerk has a television in her office to monitor the courtrooms and a D-Link would fit nicely with the set up. With the D-Link the clerk can also speak for herself allowing the Video Remote Interpreting to interpret the conversation in return.

On September 26, 2005, the Executive Director and Executive Staff Advisor attended the Executive Board meeting at KCDHH. The Chair joined us by phone because her teaching assistant was unable to cover her class due to a death in the family. See separate report.

On September 28, 2005, the Program Coordinator attended the KECC Report meeting in Frankfort. An update by agency was provided to the Coordinators. Suggestions were given to KCDHH for increasing contributions.

On September 28, 2005, the Executive Director participated in a meeting and tour of the Kentucky School for the Deaf campus with State Representative Mike Harmon, Kentucky School for the Deaf staff and Kentucky Department of Education staff. Ms. Barb Kibler from the Department of Education led the brief meeting before the tour. During the meeting, Ms. Kibler with other members from the group explained the Facilities Planning Committee's goal. The group showed Representative Harmon a map of the campus and explained what the new campus plan would look like. The group then took a tour of the campus and showed Representative Harmon which buildings on campus were no longer in use and showed him the general area of where the new campus would be built, which existing buildings would be included in the new campus plan and what new construction would need to happen for the new campus plan pending the selection of architectural firm to develop a master plan. This architect may have different recommendations for the final campus plan and will incorporate all input from the Facilities Planning Groups to date. A discussion took place as to how much money the Kentucky School for the Deaf would need from the Legislature to construct the new campus.

On September 29, 2005, the Executive Interpreter attended the Office of Special Instructional Services Advisory Council meeting in Frankfort. The highlight of the meeting was Ms. Barb Kibler's report on the IDEA regulation changes. Ms. Kibler reported that September 30, 2005 is the last day to answer the 13 questions on the web. The Office of Special Instructional Services has received hundreds of surveys back with responses to these questions. They are organizing all responses. Ms. Kibler hopes to have a draft copy of the new IDEA regulations

out for feedback by mid November and to submit the draft regulations to the Kentucky Board of Education during their December meeting and to have approval of the new IDEA regulations during the February Kentucky Board of Education meeting. Other reports were given including one regarding the Kentucky Assistive Technology Service.

KCDHH Goal IV: Empower constituents by providing leadership, training, advocacy, educational and awareness programs and services.

On July 20, 2005, the Network Analyst went to the Governor Scholars Program at the Centre College campus in Danville for a storyteller visit. He shared stories about his life as a deaf person growing up, his deaf grandfather's life, a deaf joke or two and raising three deaf children. There were approximately 60 students there. The other two storytellers shared stories about life as an African-American and life as an Eastern Kentuckian. The students really enjoyed the Network Analyst's stories and learned a lot about deaf culture and life as a deaf person.

On August 24, 2005, the Interpreter Administrator and the Program Coordinator met in Frankfort with two staff persons from Kentucky Storytelling Association (KSA) to discuss a partnership in a grant approved by the Kentucky Arts Council. KSA will produce a storytelling conference and wants to make it accessible to deaf and hard of hearing storytellers and teach others to use interpreters for presentations. Details for the conference brochure and drafted language to be used for PR purposes were finalized. Deaf and hard of hearing people are encouraged to attend. At least one deaf presenter will provide a workshop on art and storytelling and a presentation will be given to educate KSA on how to use interpreters properly.

On August 12, 2005, the Program Coordinator and Interpreter Administrator met in Frankfort with John Benjamin from the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) and gave him information needed for KCDHH to partner with them on a grant application. If approved KCDHH would conduct residencies within the school systems showcasing deaf and hard of hearing artists. KAC wrote the grant and will inform KCDHH of the outcome.

On September 20, 2005, the Executive Director had a lunch meeting with Ms. Trish Salerno from the Kentucky Arts Council, as a result of Senator Dan Kelly's request. Senator Kelly had the opportunity to see two deaf performers while he was with the Kentucky Association of the Deaf officers participating in their conference banquet. He was so impressed with these two performers that he contacted the Executive Director to ask her if there was any way to bring them to Kentucky. He recommended the Executive Director meet with Ms. Trish Salerno. This meeting focused on grant and partnership opportunities to assist in the financial part of bringing these performers to Kentucky. Partnering with local school districts was a recommendation. Getting deaf artists and performers more recognized throughout the state was also an area of discussion.

KCDHH Goal V: Improve support of people in our organization to create a work environment that fosters productivity and innovation.

On July 6, 2005, the Network Analyst attended the monthly birthday chat in Frankfort hosted by the Education Cabinet in honor of employees with birthdays during that month. Refreshments were provided and the group sang Happy Birthday to the Network Analyst since that very day was his birthday.

On July 29, 2005, KCDHH Staff celebrated the Network Analyst and Information Coordinator's birthdays by going to Waffle House for lunch and returned for dessert at the office.

August 2-7, 2005, the TTY Specialist attended the National Black Deaf Advocates conference in Orlando. At this conference, the Kentucky Black Deaf Advocates Association was officially established. Workshops staff attended were "The Leader in you," "Social Security and You: The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act," and "The Education of Black Deaf Americans in the 20th Century: Policy Implications for Administrators in Residential Schools for the Deaf" in addition to general sessions. The Wild Zappers, frequent performers at DeaFestival - Kentucky, provided entertainment.

August 11-13, 2005, the Executive Director attended the Ohio Association of the Deaf conference in Dublin, Ohio and September 15-18, she attended the National Association of the Deaf Board meeting in Washington. Issues were discussed on advocacy projects such as state licensure efforts for interpreters, better standards for interpreters and public policies such as mandated Video Relay Services, telecommunications interconnectivity, a need for model leadership curriculum on a national level and a national agenda related to educational opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing children (0-21).

On August 25, 2005, the Program Coordinator attended a Grant Writing workshop in Richmond, Kentucky sponsored by the Kentucky Arts Council. They primarily focused on obtaining residential artists for the school systems. Methods to use to obtain KAC and other federally funded grants were shared and other participants were educated on the availability of deaf and hard of hearing artists for their residencies.

On August 26, 2005, KCDHH staff celebrated the TTY Specialist's birthday by having a potluck lunch. The theme was barbeque/soul food.

September 7-9, 2005, the Executive Director attended the National Association of State Relay Administrators (NASRA) conference. September 10-14, 2005, the Executive Director and Program Coordinator attended the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association, National Conference. Both conferences were in Tucson. Both conferences discussed new trends in telecommunications and emerging technology for the deaf and hard of hearing population as well as procedures used for distribution programs. KCDHH will host the 2006 NASRA and TEDPA conferences. The tentative dates are October 11-14, 2006 for NASRA and October 16-18, 2006 for the TEDPA conference at the Hyatt Hotel in Louisville.

On September 26, 2005, the Executive Staff Advisor attended an Informational Workshop sponsored by the Department of Public Health. This workshop was a follow-up to one held in Frankfort in November about ensuring that communication channels are in place in advance of a public health emergency - a communication network capable of reaching out to some of the most difficult to reach populations including deaf and hard of hearing individuals. They had developed a DVD which will be closed captioned soon, a brochure, a pocket guide and a manual that includes Kentucky's Plan for Disaster Preparedness, an Overview of Kentucky's Two Major Disaster Response Plans, The Health Alert Network, Ways You Can Help, Personal Safety, Reaching Out to Everyone and Resources for Community Leaders. In addition, they presented key findings of a survey they did.